

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
September 19, 2014

Dates to Remember:

September 22, 2014	Final Budget Hearing
October 16, 2015	City Commission Workshop
October 20, 2014	City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The Howard E. Hill Foundation is in the process of paving their driveway apron at the San Pedro location. They are also paving an interior parking lot for the residents on the Trinidad side of the property.
- After recent rains, several commercial buildings have needed roof repairs. The First Baptist Church has completed their repairs on the sanctuary (approx. 5,500 sq. ft.) and Hendry Regional Medical Center (approx. 106,000 sq. ft.) is being repaired now.
- The Clewiston Fire Department responded to two (2) structure fires this past weekend. The first one was located at 3001 Evercane Road (CR835), apparently caused by electrical failure in the attic resulting in heavy structural damage. The second one was a wood frame tri-plex on North Francisco where a tenant apparently fell asleep while cooking. The Fire Department evacuated all occupants from the building. Two of the units were cleared for occupancy the following day and the third, with heavy damage to the kitchen and dining area, will remain uninhabitable until repairs are completed.

Golf Course Operations Director Ford reports:

- Greens were aerified and top dressed this week in house.
- Roughs were mowed to 1 ½" this week. It will take a couple of weeks of mowing to eliminate the extra clippings produced.
- The jockey pump in the pump station was replaced this week. This is a 7 ½ h.p. submersible to maintain line pressure.
- The Masonic Lodge held its annual tournament this past Saturday.
- Greens were sprayed with a fertilizer and insecticide.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- We had our first daycare story time this week for this new school year.
- Montura library service continues every Wednesday at the Montura Club House from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- \$8,000 is still needed to provide e-books through your Library. Any donation towards this endeavor will be highly appreciated.

- After much hard work and if all goes well, the Microsoft IT Academy is slated to start in the first week of October. Prices for classes and certifying exams will be out soon.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Sunday at 1:00 p.m., officers responded to a stabbing at a church on South Dean Duff. A verbal squabble between feuding families quickly escalated and one man was stabbed while protecting his wife. Warrants for the suspects arrest have been filed. The victim was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.
- Patrol responded to a traffic accident on West Alverdez. One vehicle ran a stop sign and struck a second vehicle driving it into the canal. The mother and daughter in the second vehicle were able to escape the car in the canal with help from quick acting bystanders. The mother was later transported to the hospital for internal injuries. The driver of the "at fault" vehicle was arrested for DUI. A walk up observer was arrested after refusing to clear the scene and interfering with EMS, Fire and LEO officials.
- We are stepping up our efforts in our partnership with Drug Free Hendry County. We have installed a tamper resistant self-operated drug drop box in the lobby. Citizens with expired, unused, or unwanted medications can walk in and drop them in the box. PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION IN THE TRASH OR SEWER SYSTEM.
- Following a complaint from a merchant regarding counterfeit bills, officers were able to track down and, following an extended footrace, arrest the suspect. He is being held in the Hendry County Jail.
- Officers will be busy this weekend working a saturation DUI patrol thanks to funding from Drug Free Hendry County. The troops will also provide extra patrolling to a large BFL Fishing Tournament scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. One hundred forty boats are scheduled to participate.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1116** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 622** Complaints Investigated
 - 51** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 32** Criminal Arrests Made
 - 43** Red Light Camera Violations
 - 9** City Ordinance Violations
 - 14** Code Violations Opened
 - 58** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 17** Alarm Responses
 - 3** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Street Maintenance: (1) All unpaved roads were graded this week. Rain has created several wash-outs and pot holes. (2) The pot-hole patrol ran this week and patched paved streets. If you see a pot hole, please call Public Workd at 983-1471. (3) Staff is moving around town trimming trees obstructing visibility at intersections and tree branches hanging low in the ROW. Please be careful when you see crews working in your area.

- Facility Maintenance: (1) Senior Citizens Building: The City's portion of this project has been completed. The contractor has yet to install the hand rail, paint one door and cover some electric outlets in the activity room.
- Paving project: Weekly Asphalt was awarded the 2015 Paving Project.
- FDOT Funding Request: Two projects were sent to the FDOT office in Tallahassee this week requesting grants for drainage on West Pasadena and on Ventura Ave. A third grant request was sent to the FDOT, Fort Myers office for the funding of new "Welcome to Clewiston" signs.
- School Zone Signage: A request from the HCSO for more signage in the area around the elementary schools has come in. Staff is looking into the request and will order signs if needed.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- The remodeling of the Sr. Citizen Center is complete other than a couple of touch ups and cleaning. We will begin to place the furniture back and set-up this week and finish next week. We will be holding a "GRAND OPENING" soon!
- The picnic pavilions at the Levee Park on the Lake side got a fresh coat of paint this week.
- Sugarland Sports Complex staff are prepping, squaring, setting goals and marking fields for the upcoming AYSO season and CHS Soccer seasons. A total of seven (7) soccer game fields will be utilized this season. Additional areas for soccer practice are being prepped as well.
- Plans are being made for the "Kid's Fall Festival" tentatively scheduled for October 25th in the Sugar Festival Field.
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Lightning hit several transformers during the storm on Saturday, September 13th causing power outages all over town. The Electric crew worked throughout the night to restore power as quickly as possible.
- The Water/Sewer Crew will be repairing a water valve and replacing a section of 4" water line on Georgia and Della Tobias in the coming weeks. They repaired a water break on Hoover Dike Road this week.
- The Electric Crew is replacing several utility poles throughout our service area and repaired the tennis court lights.
- A very hot and humid August teamed with increased water usage has caused an increase in utility bills for some of our residents. Remember that even though you have not changed your routine, the outside weather conditions affect your air conditioner. If you have any concerns about your bill, please contact our office at 863-983-1454. We will be happy to assist you in investigating your concerns. We also encourage our residents to read your meter(s) when you receive your bill and compare your readings. Most electric meters are now digital and are easy to read. Your reading should be higher than what is on your bill. Remember to change the air conditioner filter on a monthly basis and turn off ceiling fans when you are not in the room. Setting your thermostat to 80 during the

day when you are not home and setting the water heater on the energy saving setting will also help.

- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE UTILITY PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE!** You can register your account by visiting our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and click on the link at the bottom of the page or by going to <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl>. Payments can be made by credit or debit card. You can also review your account activity, consumption history and request certain work orders.